

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for common contact identification comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication, wherein said local communication identifies said second user;

receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication;

accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices, said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user who has at least one contact in common with said first user

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said at least one common contact.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifier is a visual identifier to be provided to a display unit.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication received by at least one of said first and second portable computing devices and indicating whether said first and second users share a common contact;

if said first and second users share a common contact, providing via said non-local wireless communication an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user and further identifying to said first user the common contact.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

specifying said identifier to a display.

14-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for common contact identification using a portable computing device comprising:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices if one or more common contacts exist, said notification providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein said notification is a local wireless communication comprising at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication is an infrared communication.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device corresponding to a first user a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device corresponding to a second user, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication, wherein said local communication identifies said second user;

receiving at a central receiving station a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device identifying at least said first and said second user, wherein said non-local wireless communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication;

accessing a data store comprising contact information corresponding to said first user and said second user to determine whether said first user and said second user have at least one common contact; and

if at least one common contact is determined, sending at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices, said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user

26. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said first and second users.

27. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said at least one subsequent non-local wireless communication identifies said at least one common contact.

28. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said second portable computing device provides notification to said second user that another user has at least one common contact.

29. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said first portable computing device provides notification to said first user that another user has at least one common contact.

30. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 25, wherein said identifier is a visual identifier to be provided to a display unit.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

at a first portable computing device, receiving a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said local communication identifying a second user corresponding to said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

sending a non-local wireless communication from said first portable computing device to a receiving station, said non-local wireless communication identifying said second user and a first user corresponding to said first portable computing device, wherein said non-local communication is a cellular link communication or a satellite link communication; and

receiving a non-local wireless communication from said receiving station, said non-local wireless communication received by at least one of said first and second portable computing devices and indicating whether said first and second users share a common contact;

if said first and second users share a common contact, providing via said non-local wireless communication an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user and further identifying to said first user the common contact

35. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:  
notifying said first user that another user has been identified as having a common contact.

36. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, wherein said notification provides the identity of said second user.

37. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 34, further comprising:  
specifying said identifier to a display.

38-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving in a first portable computing device a local wireless communication directly from a second portable computing device, said communication including contact information from said second portable computing device, wherein said local wireless communication comprises at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication;

comparing said contact information from said second portable computing device to contact information within said first portable computing device to determine whether one or more common contacts exist; and

providing a notification to at least one of said first and second portable computing devices if one or more common contacts exist, said notification providing to said first user an identifier identifying said second user as having at least one contact in common with said first user, wherein said notification is a local wireless communication comprising at least one among an infrared communication or a radio frequency (RF) communication.

45. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is displaying a visual identifier.

46. (Original) The machine-readable storage of claim 44, wherein said notification is an audible sound.

47-48. (Cancelled)



49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said non-local communication is received by said second computing device, wherein said identifier conveyed via said non-local communication is a visual identifier, and further comprising electronically conveying said visual identifier to a display unit worn by said second user, said display unit displaying the visual identifier to said first user when said first user is within a range of vision to view the display unit.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein the visual identifier comprises at least one symbol indicating the common contact of said first and second users.